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M E R L I N.

A

P O E M.

Humbly inscrib'd to the Right Honourable

GEORGE, Lord LEMPSTER.

Habitârunt Dî quoque Sylvas.

VIRG.

By the Reverend Mr. NIXON, A. M.

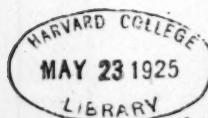


L O N D O N:

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George Nichols fund



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P O E M.



O charm the Sense with beauteous
Scenes of Art,

Nor uninstructed leave the pliant
Heart ;

Sweet, Pain-deluding Tales from Legends old
The Muse to blooming LEMPSTER shall unfold.

Hence

Hence taught the YOUTH shall Syren-Pleasures fly,
 And real from illusive Good descry.
 So shall the precious Life, indulgent Heav'n
 Relenting to his *Parent's* Vows has given,
 By Virtue's Path its noblest End obtain,
 Nor *They* rejoice, nor Heav'n have sav'd in vain.

STILL pants my Bosom with the recent Fear!
 Still God-like Forms before my Eyes appear!
 Still thro' the verdant Scene my Fancy roves,
 Where *Thames* delighted views fair *Richmond's*
 Groves:

Where late in gloomy Shades, with fond Sur-
 prize

An antique Mansion struck my wond'ring Eyes;
 A rural Cot half clos'd with rising Green,
 With awful Beauty, venerably mean:
 Whose frugal Windows check'd the glaring Ray,
 And o'er the Dome diffus'd a solemn Day.
 Deep in the Circuit of the dread Retreat,
 An hoary *Sage* maintain'd his central Seat;

His

His Hand a Rod of wond'rous Virtue bore,
 Dark Schemes, the Fate of Empires, strow'd the
 Floor.

Religious Horror all my Soul possess'd,
 And my too bold intrusive Steps repress'd ;
 'Till in mild Accents thus the *Sage* unseal'd
 His Lips, and this affecting Tale reveal'd;

Conducted by the kind auspicious Pow'rs,
 Stranger, thy Foot-steps reach these hallow'd
 Bow'rs ;

Their new Possessor, not unknown to Fame,
 In *Maridunum* once bore MERLIN'S Name.

When ARTHUR, glorious Prince, my Skill ap-
 prov'd,

Imbib'd my Counsels, and my Converse lov'd.
 With Nature's deep mysterious Knowledge blest,
 Both Heav'n and Earth my wond'rous Pow'r
 confess'd :

'Till Love unguarded Reason did Surprize ;
 (For who of all Mankind was always wise ?)

Inglorious then I drag'd the fatal Chain,
 And in * *Nereia's* Eyes obey'd his Reign :

B

With

* *The Lady of the Lake.*

With mystic Charms, and each persuasive Art,
 I strove to melt th' obdurate Fair One's Heart;
 And (when no meaner Price the Nymph cou'd
 move)

My sacred Science barter'd for her Love.

Arm'd with the Secret, the perfidious Maid

The Donor by the fatal Gift betray'd;

In a capacious lonesome Cave immur'd,

Me, fond, deluded Lover, fast secur'd;

And, as the adamantine Vault she clos'd,

Thus with insulting Pride my Doom impos'd:

" Let those dark Caverns hide thy conscious
 Shame,

" 'Till *Britain's* Island boast a *Princely Dame*;

" Whose Wisdom shall exceed my Beauty's
 Pow'r,

" And *CAMBRIA's Prophet* to the Day restore.

O CAROLINA, how shall I reveal

The Debt immense of Gratitude I feel!

You gave me to exchange those dark Abodes

For these fair blissful Bow'rs, the Haunt of Gods:

By

By *You* my pristin Honours I regain,
And see restor'd a better ARTHUR'S Reign.

YOU Sons of Science! in my Transports share,
And hail a *Queen*, who *Science* makes her Care.
To Truth a *Queen's* Example leads the Way,
A *Queen's* ennobling Smiles your Toils repay.

AND you dread Powers! whose sacred Influence guides

Th' illumin'd Genius, and o'er Arts presides;
Still with your lucid Troops the Dome invest,
When destin'd to receive the *Royal Guest*:
With boundless Science fill her God-like Mind,
Who thirsts to know, only to bless Mankind.

So, when his rising Empire urg'd his Thought,
His Aid from Heav'n pacific *Numa* sought;
And in his Cell, with holy Raptures crown'd
Egeria's visionary Converse own'd;
From her to *Roman* Swains, untaught to yield,
Each sacred Truth, and useful Art reveal'd:

Religion

Religion soon the savage Bosom warm'd,
 And Heav'n-taught Laws their brutal Rage
 disarm'd:

Pious, and brave in Arms, by Arts refin'd,
 Hence *Rome* arose, the Mistress of Mankind.

F I N I S.

